

REMARKS

This Response to Office Action is submitted in reply to the Office Action of May 3, 2005. Claims 1-2 and 4-25 are pending. Claims 3 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No Fee is due in connection with this Response. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit for any overpayment.

Claims 3 and 26 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 3 and 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to Claims 3 and 26 is overcome.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 20040228802 to Chang et al. ("Chang"). The current patent application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to the earlier filed U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/310,513, filed August 6, 2001. More specifically, this application is a continuation of and claims priority to and the benefit of Patent Corporation Treaty Application No. PCT/US02/24549, filed August 1, 2002, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/310,513, filed August 6, 2001. A declaration and power of attorney claiming priority to the original U.S. Provisional Patent Application was filed with the present non-provisional patent application and received by the Patent Office on February 4, 2004. The invention as claimed is fully supported by the U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/310,513, filed August 6, 2001. Further, a proper priority claim was included in the Specification as originally filled. See, Specification, page 1, lines 9-12.

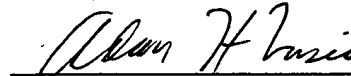
In contrast, Chang has a filing date of May 12, 2003. Therefore, the earliest effective prior art date of Chang does not antedate the effective filing date of the present application, and thus, renders Chang unavailable for use as prior art under 103(a). Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-25 be withdrawn.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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